

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-0390

Poplar Grove Methodist Church

13600 Poplar Road

Cockeysville, Baltimore County

1893

Private

The Poplar Grove Methodist Church was constructed in 1893 for a congregation that formed in the early 19th century. The first building associated with the group was the Poplar Meeting House, which was located in the same area as the extant structure. The presence of the earlier building is confirmed by the 1850 and 1877 county atlases. The congregation dates to an early period of settlement in the 19th century company town of Warren and is representative of the many Gothic Revival style churches erected throughout Baltimore County in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The Poplar Grove Methodist Church is one-and-a-half stories tall, three bays wide, and four bays deep. The church features solid six-course American bond brick construction on a solid random rubble stone foundation with an asphalt-shingled front gable roof. The façade is dominated by a two-story, one-bay-square projecting bell tower. The half story of the church and the second story of the tower are both constructed of wood frame clad in wood shingles. A steeply pitched pyramidal roof clad in asphalt shingles caps the tower. Square wood posts with open triangular corner brackets support this steeple. One interior stretcher bond brick chimney rises from the middle of the south elevation. The church fronts east and entry is gained through the first story of the tower, which is pierced by one six-panel double-leaf door with paneled recess and a pointed-arch multi-light transom with a pointed-arch two-course rowlock lintel. Two pointed-arch double-hung Queen Anne windows with molded wood surrounds and pointed-arch two-course rowlock lintels flank the tower. The cemetery dates from the mid-19th century and is still in use as a burial ground. The cemetery contains between 200 and 500 graves that face east in north-south rows. Most of the graves feature marble or granite upright slabs that are segmentally arched without footstones. Some of the earlier graves, however, do have footstones. The circa 1960 parish hall is a one-story building of concrete block construction with a front gable roof clad in asphalt shingles.

(indicate preferred name)

other

county Baltimore County

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

city, town	Cockeysville	state	MD	zip code	21030
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city, town	Towson	tax map	43	tax parcel	76	tax ID number	0816060675
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☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory

1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-0390

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Constructed in 1893, the Poplar Grove Methodist Church is a modest Gothic Revival style building one-and-a-half stories tall, three bays wide, and four bays deep. The church features solid six-course American bond brick construction on a solid random rubble stone foundation with an asphalt-shingled front gable roof. The façade is dominated by a two-story, one-bay-square projecting bell tower. The half story of the church and the second story of the tower are both constructed of wood frame clad in wood shingles. A steeply pitched pyramidal roof clad in asphalt shingles caps the tower. Square wood posts with open triangular corner brackets support this steeple. One interior stretcher bond brick chimney rises from the middle of the south elevation. The church fronts east and entry is gained through the first story of the tower, which is pierced by one six-panel double-leaf door with paneled recess and a pointed-arch multi-light transom with a pointed-arch two-course rowlock lintel. Two pointed-arch double-hung Queen Anne windows with molded wood surrounds and pointed-arch two-course rowlock lintels flank the tower.

The cemetery dates from the mid-19th century and is still in use as a burial ground. The cemetery contains between 200 and 500 graves that face east in north-south rows. Most of the graves feature marble or granite upright slabs that are segmentally arched without footstones. Some of the earlier graves, however, do have footstones. Families represented in the graveyard include Gerber, Hedrick, Uhler, Taylor, Curry, Shipley, and Bull.

The circa 1960 parish hall is a one-story building of concrete block construction with a front gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. The gable peaks are vinyl-sided.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-0390

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates	1893-present	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	1893		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Poplar Grove Methodist Church was constructed in 1893 for a congregation that formed in the early 19th century. The first building associated with the group was the Poplar Meeting House, which was located in the same area as the extant structure. The presence of the earlier building is confirmed by the 1850 and 1877 county atlases.¹ The congregation dates to an early period of settlement in the 19th century company town of Warren and is representative of the many Gothic Revival style churches erected throughout Baltimore County in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Warren was established as a manufacturing village in the early 19th century, when the Warren Cotton Factory was constructed there along the Gunpowder Falls. In 1830, after the mill was in operation for only a few years, several of the industrial buildings burned.² The factory appears to have continued operations over the next thirty four years, for the 1850 county atlas depicts the factory, sawmill, grist mill, a general store, tavern, schoolhouse and Methodist church in the small community.³ In 1864, the factory property was sold to Morris and Baldwin. This Baltimore-based firm maintained the mill's operations through the late 19th century.⁴ Their acquisition of the Warren factory appears to have had a significant effect on the success of local industry and commerce, for the 1877 county atlas reveals that many more buildings, industrial and otherwise, were constructed over the twenty-seven year period beginning in the mid-19th century.⁵ Warren continued to grow in population and size through the early 20th century.

¹ J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850); see also *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877).

² J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men* (Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA), p. 881.

³ J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).

⁴ J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men* (Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA), p. 881.

⁵ *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877).

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-0390

Name Poplar Grove Methodist Church, 13600 Poplar Road, Cockeysville, Baltimore County
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

The church was constructed in the Gothic Revival style, which was introduced to the United States in the 1830s by architect Alexander Jackson Davis and popularized through the pattern books of landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing as a reaction against Classicism. Reflective of this style are the square bell tower with steeple and pointed-arch windows. The Gothic Revival style abstracted elements from Gothic cathedrals of medieval Europe, primarily those of England and France. Although introduced to the United States in the 1830s by architect Alexander Jackson Davis, Andrew Jackson Downing, a landscape architect, popularized the Gothic Revival during the last half of the 19th century as a reaction against Classicism.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-0390

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property One Acre
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name Towson Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction in 1893, the Poplar Grove Methodist Church has been associated with the three acres of land known as tax parcel 76 of map 43 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	May 29, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

BA-0228
13704 BARLOW ROAD
PHOENIX, BALTIMORE COUNTY

5663 11 SW
(HEREFORD)

76°37'30"
39°30' +

361000m.E.

362

SUNNYBROOK (JUNC. MD. 146)

363

35

BA-0352
13640 POPLAR HILL ROAD 43730000 N.
PHOENIX, BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0391
13407 BLYTHENIA RD
PHOENIX, BALTIMORE
COUNTY

BA-0390
13600 POPLAR ROAD
LOCKEYSVILLE
BALTIMORE COUNTY

1-0278
DULANEY GATE CIRCLE
LOCKERSVILLE
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0366
2415 OLD BOSLEY ROAD
LUTHERVILLE-TIMONIUM
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-2235
12600 JARRETTSVILLE PIKE
TIMONIUM, BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-2236
12500 JARRETTSVILLE PIKE
TIMONIUM, BALTIMORE COUNTY

USGS Quad: TOWSON
Scale: 1:24,000

↑
N



BA-0390

13600 POPLAR ROAD, COCKEYSVILLE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPD

SE CORNER

1.03



BA-0390

13600 POPLAR ROAD, COCKEYSVILLE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPO

NW CORNER

2 of 3



BA-0390

13600 POPLAR ROAD, COCKEYSVILLE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACELIES

4/2001

MD SHPD

CEMETERY

3 of 3

BA- 390

POPLAR GROVE METHODIST CHURCH AND CEMETERY - 1893 - Westside of Poplar Hill Road, 0.35 mile north of Paper Mill Road. Brick church with belfry, gable roof, in Gothic style. Cornerstone reads: "M. P. Church, 1893, E. O. Ewing, Pastor." The Poplar Meeting House was shown here on 1850 map and the 1877 atlas showed Poplars (sic) Meeting House. A deed of 1830 legalized a church that had already been built on private property. Large cemetery includes burials moved from the inundated company town of Warren, c. 1922. Complete history published in 1981 by Sam Howard.